

# The West Watch

Neighborhood Group

## ***THE REPORTER***

WEST END YOUTH CENTER  
20<sup>TH</sup> AND GREENLEAF STREETS  
MEETING 2<sup>ND</sup> TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH

**OCTOBER 2010**

Next Meeting will be on October 12, 2010

### ALERT

The West Watch received this warning from the Rose Garden Neighborhood association.

My friend, Marge, was home alone when someone rang her doorbell at 10:40PM. She did not answer the door, the doorbell rang again and thereafter loud banging on the door. Next the person(s) outside proceeded to bang on her back door. Marge's across the street neighbor noticed a silver color SUV in the area.

Now Marge called 911. When the police arrived, Marge was told that it apparently is a new approach by thieves so see if anyone is at home, and if not, the home will be robbed. The policeman also told her that this has happened in Whitehall for some weeks and now has moved south of Route 22. He also said that if anyone rings your doorbell between 8PM and midnight, do not open the door, instead call 911. So be aware.

Preventive measures you can take—leave your porch light on. Have a motion detector light installed at your back door. As always, keep your door locked. If you have a fence around your backyard, put a lock on the gate. Remember, burglars want to get in and out as quickly as possible without being seen, so put obstacles—locks and lights—in their way.

### Snow Shoveling Assistance

If you are physically unable (Elderly or handicapped) to shovel snow from your sidewalks and driveway this winter, the West Watch is offering free assistance. Please call Gerry Alfano at 610-972-4343.

### Speaker of the Month

The guest speaker for the October meeting will be Officer Tim Yanders of the Allentown Police Force. The crime prevention unit will speak about home security and personal safety. Also meet and greet with Beni the K-9 in our district.

## A Word From Our President

### Hello Neighbors

### **WHY WE SHOULD VOTE**

#### **Voting is a way to speak your mind and let your voice be Heard!**

Your vote is your voice. When we vote, we are actually telling elected officials and lawmakers how we feel about education, public safety, social security, health care, and other important issues..

#### **One voice, one vote really does count!**

Remember: there is power in numbers, and when we vote and get our family members to vote, we can truly make a difference. If you don't vote for what you believe in, others will – and you may not like the outcome.

#### **Our children are depending on us to represent their voices too!**

Because our children can't vote, we have to do it for them. That's how we make our concerns about schools, safety, housing, and other issues heard. When we vote, we are looking out for our kids, and their futures.



#### **Voting changes communities!**

Do you ever wonder why one neighborhood gets passed over for things it needs, while another seems to get it all? One big reason is voting. When we vote, we can get results that we can actually see.

#### **Vote to effect change!**

It was through elections that we voted in officials who were champions for civil rights. Voting is our chance to make a difference in our own lives and within the world.

#### **Believe it or not, voting is a way of honoring our history!**

As long as our country has existed, there have been people who didn't want us to vote. There were several freedom fighters that stood up for the right to vote. Well, those times may seem ancient, but there are still people today who don't want us to vote. I t's now our turn to stand up and vote to preserve the honor of those who went  before us.

#### **Last but not least, because it gives you credibility**

Often times, we voice our concerns to elected officials, but if we aren't voting, our concerns *may not matter at all* to them. Voting can actually give you the credibility to make your concerns a top priority for legislators.

### **Cast your vote on November 5, 2010**

Attend a monthly West Watch meeting. Remember it is your neighborhood and it is your home. Share your concerns about the neighborhood at the monthly meeting with your neighbors.

When we voice our opinion and communicate our concerns, we can maintain and improve the *Quality of Life* in our community.



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FOR A FREE ESTIMATE CALL ANNE GERBER AT  
610/797-7000

### **October is Fire Safety Month**

Contact Liberty Mutual to insure that you have  
adequate coverage

Please RSVP by calling my office at

**610-398-9800 extension 51478**

or via e-mail at:

**Fabian.moriah@libertymutual.com**

## Block Leaders

The West Watch Neighborhood Group is looking for **BLOCK Leaders**. The block leaders monitors the activities of their neighborhood and assists residents with solutions. If you are interested in becoming a Block Leader, please contact the President Gerry Alfano at [gfa1westend@rcn.com](mailto:gfa1westend@rcn.com) or attend the next meeting.

## Winterizing Home

### Indoor Winterizing Tasks

- 1. Have chimneys cleaned and inspected.** Blockages and buildup in chimneys can lead to dangerous conditions such as fires and inadequate ventilation.
- 2. Consider a thermal insulating blanket for your hot water heater.** Hot water heaters are often the least-efficient appliance in your home. This is especially true if your tank is stored in an outdoor storage room or garage (as ours is). When temperatures drop the tank has to work extra hard to keep the contents warm. Consider adding a thermal insulating blanket for your hot water heat to insulate the water from surrounding temperatures.
- 3. If your windows are not made of newer insulated glass, consider installing storm windows.** New, energy-efficient windows often have two layers of glass with insulating air in between. Older, single-pane models allow cold air to more easily seep in and make rooms feel cooler.
- 4. Add insulation to attics and crawlspaces.** Inadequate insulation in attics allows heat to rise up and out of your home, forcing heating systems to work harder to keep your home warm.
- 5. [Install a programmable thermostat](#).** Programmable thermostats allow you to automatically create a heating/cooling schedule for your home. At night you can allow inside temperatures to drop down a bit, but warm things up just before the alarm clock goes off. Similarly, you can allow the temperatures to drop inside your hours when it is empty during the day, but warm things up before you arrive home from work. Here are some thoughts on the [ideal thermostat setting](#) for winter.
- 6. Arrange for a professional inspection of your furnace.** Just like automobiles require periodic maintenance, furnaces require servicing by a professional. It's worth the cost of a service call.
- 7. If you vacation during the winter months, leave your heat on and set it to 55 degrees.** This will help reduce the chance of interior pipes freezing.
- 8. Install a carbon monoxide detector.** Gas-log fireplaces and furnaces can give off toxic carbon monoxide gases. Follow manufacturer recommendations on placement of monitoring device.
- 9. Install fresh batteries in all smoke alarms.** We change the batteries in our smoke alarms twice a year, around daylight savings time changes. It's a good idea to periodically test alarms to be sure batteries are still working properly.
- 10. Inspect fire extinguishers and recharge if necessary.** Replace any extinguishers older than ten years.
- 11. Insulate water pipes that may be exposed to freezing temperatures.** If water in pipes freeze, chances are the expansion will cause them to burst and you'll be stuck with a huge bill from a plumber.

## Update Your E-Mail

The West Watch will be launching a new website and a new e-mail system in a few weeks. So, it's a good time to send us your e-mail address or update it if you've switched to a new system yourself. Send an e-mail to [president@thewestwatch.org](mailto:president@thewestwatch.org) and put New E-mail Address in the subject line.

## *CONTACT US*

### Website:

**www.TheWestWatch.org**

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☐

**YES!!** I am very pleased with the work that the West Watch Neighborhood Group is doing and I would like to make a donation to support their many efforts such as the newsletter, meetings, and community events

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**SORRY.** I am not able to help the West Watch Neighborhood Group with a financial contribution at this time but I would like to help in other ways. Please contact me with how I can help.

You can make your check or money order payable to:

**The West Watch Neighborhood Group**

& Send it to:

**3140B Tilghman St. #243**

**Allentown, PA 18104**

Thank you for your support!

### **West End Youth Center Bingo**

Come join the fun and prizes at the West End Youth Center Bingo night every Monday night at 6:45.

### **West End Watch Group Web Site**

**Watch for the updated West Watch Web site now under construction and coming in August**

### **WEST WATCH SPONSOR of THE REPORTER**

**Become a WEST WATCH SPONSOR of THE REPORTER. Please call 610-972-4343 for additional information.**

### **Numbers To Know**

<b>Police—Fire—Ambulance</b>	<b>911</b>	<b>Police Non-Emergency</b>	<b>610-437-7751</b>
<b>Police—Vice Unit</b>	<b>610-437-7226</b>	<b>Mayor Pawlowski</b>	<b>610-437-7546</b>
<b>Noise Complaint</b>	<b>610-437-7751</b>	<b>Street Lights</b>	<b>610-437-7735</b>
<b>Weeds/Overgrown Grass</b>	<b>610-437-8729</b>	<b>Animal Control</b>	<b>610-437-7535</b>
<b>Graffiti Removal/Recycling</b>	<b>610-437-8729</b>	<b>Sweep Program</b>	<b>610-437-8729</b>
<b>Vacant Property Issues</b>	<b>610-437-7694</b>	<b>Zoning Violations</b>	<b>610-437-4360</b>
<b>Neighborhood Disputes</b>	<b>610-437-7616</b>	<b>Parking Authority</b>	<b>610-437-7751</b>